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Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

FOR ACTION

COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY NOTE**

Togo

SUMMARY

The Executive Director presents the country programme strategy note for Togo for a programme of cooperation for the period 1997 to 2001.

The situation of children and women is still characterized by high mortality and morbidity rates linked to the inadequate quality of health services and the fact that there is still too little access to drinking water, sanitation, education and information. The deeper causes are the lack of basic education (especially for women and girls) and community involvement, as well as the State's weak capacity for governance.

This programme is designed to improve survival, development and equality of the sexes for the benefit of the most disadvantaged women and children. It will be achieved through a combination of strategies for the empowerment of communities and women, strengthening their capacity for decision-making, planning, management and monitoring of the necessary services, and through support for the provision of services to increase access to primary health care in urban areas, sanitation in rural areas, education for health and basic education for girls. Strengthening the capacities of technical service personnel and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will improve the quality of the various services provided and the utilization and management of those services. These general strategies will be implemented in three regions (Savanes, Kara and Maritime) in the form of a partnership with the Government, NGOs and other cooperating agencies. The strategies will be supported by advocacy with decision makers and donors with a view to engaging them in an extensive mobilization campaign to improve the conditions of the most disadvantaged children and women in Togo. Advocacy will be undertaken with a view to the greater integration of their needs into national development planning.

* E/ICEF/1996/2.

** An addendum to the present report containing the final country programme recommendation will be submitted to the Executive Board for approval at its third regular session of 1996.

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THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN

1. Togo, with a population estimated at 3,900,000, is ranked 140th in the human development index. The acute and prolonged socio-political crisis which lasted from 1990 to 1994 has had repercussions on many economic and social indicators. The per capita gross national product (GNP) fell from $400 in 1992 to $330 in 1994. Approximately 60 per cent of the population is below the poverty level, particularly in the northern regions (Savanes, 95 per cent; Kara, 93 per cent).

2. The infant mortality rate (IMR) and the infant and child mortality rate are high (84 and 135 per 1,000 live births respectively) and can be attributed mainly to malaria, acute respiratory infections (ARI), diarrhoeal diseases, nutritional deficiencies and diseases such as measles, poliomyelitis, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, AIDS and low birth weight. The maternal mortality rate (MMR) (420 per 100,000 live births) and maternal morbidity are still linked to haemorrhaging, infections, nutritional and metabolic disorders, sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS, malaria, nutritional deficiencies and dracunculiasis. The principal causes for this are lack of information, insufficient accessibility of quality care and the low impact of basic education, which is particularly pronounced among women (whose illiteracy rate is 67 per cent, as compared with 44 per cent for men).

3. Inadequate access to drinking water (63 per cent), particularly in rural areas (56 per cent in general and less than 40 per cent in the Maritime region), contributes to the very high frequency of diarrhoeal diseases and parasitic disorders and to the excessive workload of women. The inadequate utilization of water also places a limit on the potential health benefits. In 1992, only 3 per cent of rural areas had adequate excreta disposal systems. The need is not strongly felt because of the lack of a health communication and education strategy, the main objective of which is to change bad practices.

4. School enrolment, which fell from 76 per cent in 1990 to 61 per cent in 1994, is characterized by strong regional disparities (Savanes, 36 per cent; Centrale, 81 per cent) and gender disparities (50 per cent for girls and 73 per cent for boys). The completion rate is low (43 per cent), and the repeater rate (46 per cent) is one of the highest in the subregion. These figures can be attributed to the mediocre quality of the teaching.

5. The State's weak capacity for governance, the lack of involvement of communities (ineffective decentralization), and socio-cultural beliefs which are discriminatory towards women constitute the basic structural causes of the priority problems listed above.

6. The Government of Togo and UNICEF have resolved to tackle the problem from the standpoint of the country's current social priorities. The selection of the problems and their solution take account of the intervention of other agencies, including the World Bank for the rehabilitation of education; cooperation with France and Germany, the World Bank, the United Nations Population Fund and the World Health Organization for the reduction of the principal health problems that have been identified; the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for basic infrastructure support; and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank for improvement of governance.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM PAST COOPERATION

7. The 1994-1996 cooperation programme was designed to contribute to the reduction of IMR from 90 to 70 per 1,000 live births over a three-year period. It is difficult to evaluate this ambitious objective over such a short period of time, but the objectives of the various sectoral programmes have contributed to it by aiming to reduce specific mortality rates and by reducing morbidity rates resulting from to dracunculiasis and diarrhoeal diseases.

8. The emphasis placed on the provision of services, complementing other combinations of strategies, was fully justified by the still poor accessibility of basic services (health, provision of drinking water, sanitation, lightening the workload of women and women's education). There have been positive achievements in immunization coverage (for three doses of combined diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus vaccine the coverage was 40 per cent in 1992 and 60 per cent in 1994) and in access to essential generic drugs (the Bamako Initiative coverage rose from 26 per cent in 1992 to 90 per cent in 1995), in oral rehydration therapy (ORT), in the provision of iron and folate supplement for pregnant women, and in terms of the availability of water filters and information relating to dracunculiasis. On the other hand, the impact which the activities have had on the drinking water supply and sanitation has been inadequate because of the ineffectiveness of the strategies adopted and the belated development of an approach integrated and adapted to the needs of the communities. Likewise, support for services for women has been limited by strategies which were too costly and difficult to sustain on a continuing basis. Fortunately, they have been replaced by more efficient strategies conceived in partnership with non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

9. National-capacity building, which is advocated in all programmes, has focused on the planning and management of local services. Monitoring capacity is still a weak point at all levels, and limits the quality of the services provided.

10. The empowerment of communities in planning and management has served to strengthen previous sectoral initiatives which provided a limited opportunity for management and decision-making. However, the community approach still takes too little account of gender disparities and discrimination against women while inadequate access to information and education represents a major constraint on the long-term continuation of the activities undertaken.

11. The lack of a strategy for mobilizing decision makers and donors has meant that it has not been possible to influence policies significantly in favour of the basic needs of the most disadvantaged children and women. However, this programme has seen the development of fruitful collaboration with NGOs, which has made a significant contribution to the achievement of results in a period of crisis (support for technical services and communities).

PROPOSED COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY

12. Activities to resolve selected problems will be undertaken in three regions comprising 68 per cent of the rural population of Togo, selected on the basis of the criteria of (a) poverty; (b) the acuteness of gender disparities; (c) experience of previous cooperation; and (d) the balanced distribution of external assistance. It will thus be possible to achieve national objectives through concerted and coordinated assistance (mutual support in areas of joint intervention, provision of drinking water and harmonization of methods throughout the territory).

13. In the light of these problems and of the lessons learned from past experience, the cooperation programme for the period 1997 to 2001 is designed to improve survival, development and equality of the sexes for the benefit of the most disadvantaged women and children of the Savanes, Kara and Maritime regions. This objective will be attained through the objectives of the following four programmes:

(a) Health/water: To contribute to a 60 per cent reduction in specific infant and child mortality rates linked to the principal transmissible diseases, reduce maternal mortality resulting from complications in pregnancy, eliminate iodine and vitamin A deficiency disorders, and eliminate dracunculiasis in Togo;

(b) Basic education (girls): To contribute to the acquisition of basic knowledge by 80 per cent of girls aged 6 to 15 years if age in 300 villages in eight prefectures in the Savanes, Kara (Dankpen, Kéran) and Maritime (Vo and Lacs) regions;

(c) Community capacity-building: To strengthen the control by communities themselves, and by women in particular, of conditions for the survival and development of children and women in 50 per cent of the village communities in eight prefectures of the Savanes region;

(d) Mobilization: To strengthen the commitment of decision makers, donors and communities to the promotion of activities and the mobilization of resources on behalf of children and women.

14. The programme will be structured along four main strategic lines: (a) support for the provision of services; (b) national capacity-building; (c) the empowerment of communities; and (d) advocacy. The empowerment of communities, and of women in particular, is the decisive factor. Their involvement in decision-making will be promoted through a general participatory approach to the resolution of problems, planning, management, and monitoring and evaluation of activities at the village level. Concomitantly, an interpersonal communication and education strategy will be implemented in order to develop positive practices and to change those practices which are harmful to health, nutrition and the environment, as well as attitudes which are discriminatory towards women. The programmes, which will be carried out at the prefecture level, will provide a framework for the development of methods designed to bring about lasting behavioural changes. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms will be established which will permit the principal results to be used to influence

national policies and to ensure large-scale implementation. The results will serve, in particular, to develop a national education strategy for health, hygiene and nutrition.

15. Support for the provision of services will be designed to improve the quality of, and access to, primary health care, hygiene and basic education, as well as to reduce the excessive workload of women and the inadequacy of their income. The health achievements will be sustained through the consolidation of the strategy advanced (the recovery of costs and community management), the installation of independent mechanisms for the supply of vaccines and oral rehydration salts, and the strengthening of the prefectural reference level by developing a model of the Bamako Initiative type. Access to drinking water will be maximized by taking account of other technological options and improving existing water points. Access to school and the retention of girls in school will be guaranteed in the eight prefectures in which the disparities are most marked. Education strategies will be developed on the basis of an analysis and solutions proposed by the parents, as well as the training of teachers, parental education and childcare for younger brothers and sisters. The community capacity-building programme will assist in the establishment of basic services identified by women at the microplanning stage as having priority. moreover, access to complementary services through partnership with other cooperating agencies will be made easier with a view to the improvement of protein-energy nutrition.

16. National capacities, including the technical services and NGOs, privileged partners at the community level, will be strengthened. The focus will be mainly on participatory methods of planning, management and monitoring/supervision with a view to the better utilization of services and the taking into account of the disparities which operate against women. The emphasis will be on the prefectural and regional levels for the three principal programmes, and the global level for the mobilization programme.

17. In order that the needs of the most disadvantaged children and women will be effectively taken in to account, all information, regularly updated and analysed, will be made available to the decision makers, communicators and other partners. The programme will ensure that decision makers and civil society as a whole are made aware of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the objectives of the Decade.

ESTIMATED PROGRAMME BUDGET

Estimated programme cooperation, 1997-2001*

(In thousands of United States dollars)

	General resources	Supplementary funds	Total
Health/water	2 200	3 265	5 465
Basic education (girls)	1 250	2 240	3 490
Community capacity-building	1 200	1 770	2 970
Mobilization	350	125	475
Total	5 000	7 400	12 400

* These are indicative figures only which are subject to change once aggregate financial data are finalized.

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COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY NOTE*

Argentina

SUMMARY

The Executive Director presents the country programme strategy note for Argentina for a programme of cooperation for the period 1997 to 2001.

Argentina experienced a major economic transformation during the 1990s. Although the first half of the decade saw a reduction of poverty nationally, at 21 per cent the current level of poverty is higher than in 1980. Public social expenditure, especially in the poorer provinces, is being reduced and income disparities are increasing. Argentina has achieved the majority of the year 2000 and National Plan of Action (NPA) goals. New problems affecting children and adolescents have emerged, still lacking full assessment.

The first period of cooperation (1991-1995) emphasized communication and advocacy, directed primarily to the civil society, to position children as a priority on the social agenda. This strategy, however, needs to be complemented with a greater advocacy effort. The capacity of provincial governments also requires strengthening. The incorporation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child into the National Constitution in 1994 represents a major political and social commitment to all Argentinean children. Based on this, the objective for the next country programme in Argentina will be to create awareness in Argentinean society of the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to achieve compliance to children's rights through the reduction of social disparities as part of area-based programmes. The strategies will be advocacy directed to both Government and civil society and capacity-building through technical assistance to support provincial governments in achieving NPA goals and, in the process, implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

* E/ICEF/1996/2.

** An addendum to the present report containing the final country programme recommendation will be submitted to the Executive Board for approval at its third regular session of 1996.

THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN

1. After several decades of economic stagnation, rising inflation and political instability, Argentina experienced the strengthening of democracy and major economic improvement during the 1990s. While these factors contributed to poverty reduction, at 21 per cent the current level of poverty is still three times higher than in 1980.

2. Since the beginning of 1995, however, Argentina has experienced a deep economic recession. The already high unemployment rate of 19 per cent may reach an unprecedented level for the country as well as for the Latin American region. This situation is especially serious for female heads of households. In the country's poorer provinces, reductions in budget allocations were announced recently by the Government. Income disparities are increasing. In 1994, the wealthiest 20 per cent of the population received 51 per cent of the national income, while the poorest 30 per cent of the population received only 9 per cent.

3. Argentina has overcome the major threats to children's survival and development and also has achieved the majority of the year 2000 goals and National Plan of Action (NPA) goals. However, the following NPA goals still present challenges: reduction of under-five and maternal mortality rates; water supply and sanitation; and the goal related to the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative. Reaching and sustaining those goals is associated with reducing significant disparities at provincial and local levels. Additionally, a number of problems affecting children and adolescents have emerged that reflect the growing complexity of the social situation in Argentina, and these have not yet been sufficiently assessed. Some of the problems, related to the rights of protection and participation, are violence and exploitation of children, teenage pregnancies, AIDS and drug abuse among adolescents.

4. Argentina ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990, and the Convention was incorporated into the National Constitution in 1994. In its final observations on the first report, submitted by the Government in 1994, the Committee on the Rights of the Child stated that there was a need for effective coordination for implementation of the Convention and for increased knowledge about its contents among those responsible for social policies and legislation regarding children and adolescents. The Convention, however, is still far from being addressed through social policies and practices, and national and provincial legislation have to be fully harmonized with the Convention. Hence, future UNICEF cooperation has a role to play in supporting implementation of the Convention.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM PAST COOPERATION

5. The first country programme for UNICEF in Argentina (1991-1995) was planned during a period of hyperinflation and general deterioration in the standard of living which severely affected the situation of children and adolescents. The main objective of the country programme was to position children as a priority on the social agenda and UNICEF as an agency working for Argentinean children. With limited financial resources, the strategy selected was communication and advocacy, aimed primarily at civil society and in partnership with non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Although the objective

was achieved, it was felt that this strategy needs to be complemented in the next country programme with an even more effective strategy on advocacy with governmental sectors at both national and provincial levels so that there are increased social and financial commitments to children and adolescents.

6. The success of local fund-raising as a result of the communication strategy generated an unexpectedly large volume of funds beyond the scope of the planned country programme. The pre-election situation in Argentina constrained programme preparation with the provincial governments for the implementation of programmes financed by these additional resources. However, these resources were allocated to small-scale service delivery projects implemented by NGOs. The lesson learned is that the local fund-raising strategy needs to be fully integrated into the country programme strategy so that additional resources will be utilized for priority objectives of the programme of cooperation. Through providing information on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UNICEF mandate and policies, a more developmental approach by local donors also will be promoted.

PROPOSED COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY

7. The national development goals related to the situation of children and adolescents in Argentina are the eradication of poverty, the reduction of social and geographical disparities, the mitigation of the consequences of rising unemployment rates and the development of a new model for social policy management. The incorporation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child into the National Constitution in 1994 represents a major political and social commitment to the survival, development, protection and participation of all Argentinean children and adolescents. Simultaneously, it reinforced the goals established in the NPA, which have now become rights for each and every child, expanding the country's vision beyond the World Summit for Children goals.

8. Based on the NPA goals and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the general objective for the next programme of cooperation will be to create awareness in Argentinean society of the contents and implications of the Convention and to increase institutional capacities to improve the situation of children and women.

9. The specific country programme objectives are (a) to create awareness about the situation of children and adolescents in Argentina, especially concerning the goals of the NPA and emerging problems; (b) to promote widespread knowledge of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; (c) to support the national and provincial governments in the process of harmonization of legislation with the Convention; and (d) to assist provincial governments in developing social programmes to improve living conditions of children and reduce social and economic disparities.

10. Those objectives will be pursued through a strategy of advocacy and public education to foster changes in terms of the knowledge, attitudes and practices of public and private organizations with respect to the rights of children. A strategy for capacity-building will include technical assistance in project design, the development of monitoring and evaluation systems, and training, mainly to support provincial governments in their efforts to achieve the NPA goals and implement the Convention. Families and community organizations will

be educated and sensitized through mass media communication and training. Their increased awareness should create a demand for compliance with children's rights. A gender equity approach will be incorporated into planning, implementation and evaluation of all programme activities.

11. Several provinces, especially in the poor northern part of the country, are still far from reaching the NPA goals and also are confronted with other problems affecting children and adolescents such as ill-treatment, sexual abuse, adolescent pregnancies, drug abuse and AIDS. This situation is aggravated by increasing unemployment.

12. UNICEF will support capacity-building to reduce disparities in provincial governments most affected by these problems and other provinces which have the political will to develop integrated, wide coverage basic services to improve social indicators for highly vulnerable children and adolescents. A principal strategy will be establishment of provincial and municipal Committees for the Defense of Children's Rights to promote solutions to the major problems of children. UNICEF, in coordination with the International Labour Organisation, also will support the design and implementation of employment programmes directed towards heads of poor households, especially women. The partners for these activities will be provincial governments and non-governmental and community organizations.

13. The lack of disaggregated data at the provincial level concerning progress towards the achievement of NPA goals and emerging problems on the one hand, and the need for information on the children's situation for advocacy with the public, on the other, are the basis for a programme of studies, monitoring and evaluation.

14. The aim will be to produce an ongoing, sustainable situation analysis on children and adolescents in Argentina based on a child rights' perspective. A major strategy is to increase Government and non-government capacities to systematically collect and analyse social statistics at national and provincial levels using relevant indicators as well as the permanent monitoring of NPA goals' attainment. It also will include research and studies to increase knowledge and create demand in the areas of special protection and participation such as child battering, drug abuse, sexual abuse, adolescent pregnancies, labour market and child labour, and AIDS. A second component of the programme is the development of monitoring and evaluation systems for interventions at the provincial level.

15. The programme of advocacy, communication and social mobilization will support the objectives of the other programmes. The strategy will include nationwide advocacy on the situation of children and adolescents and the dissemination of the contents of the Convention through the use of mass media communication, campaigns, special events and publications for the general public. The partners will be national and provincial governments, mass media and NGOs. A strategy for education on children's rights will cover children, parents and teachers through the formal school system and promote children's participation.

16. The process towards the full harmonization of national and provincial legislation with the Convention also will be supported through this programme. Strategies related to advocacy and capacity-building for accelerating compliance

with the Convention will target magistrates, court personnel, legislators and public officials who are responsible for the implementation of legal reforms and social policies concerning children and adolescents, in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

17. Local fund-raising activities for UNICEF cooperation in Argentina have been successful and have supported supplementary-funded projects. A fund-raising strategy will be carried out through three main channels: (a) local fund-raising from civil society through campaigns and special events; (b) earnings from the Greeting Card and related Operations; and (c) resources from multilateral organizations, such as the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank, channelled through Government-UNICEF agreements. Inter-agency cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme is based on the same cycle of cooperation and also has demonstrated successful collaboration in allocating resources for social development to the poorest provinces in the country.

ESTIMATED PROGRAMME BUDGET

Estimated programme cooperation, 1997-2001 a/
(In thousands of United States dollars)

	General resources	Supplementary funds	Total
Capacity-building for disparity reduction	2 000	10 000	12 000
Studies, monitoring and evaluation	1 000	2 000	3 000
Advocacy, communication and social mobilization	2 000	8 000	10 000
Total	5 000	20 000	25 000

a/ These are indicative figures only which are subject to change once aggregate financial data are finalized.

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COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY NOTE**

Belize

SUMMARY

The Executive Director presents the country programme strategy note for Belize for a programme of cooperation for the period 1997 to 2000.

Belize has been economically and politically stable, but a severe economic crisis now threatens the country's children. Structural adjustment measures, including reduction in social services, are under way. The crisis, an absence of policies and insufficient capacities threaten achievement of the World Summit for Children goals and compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

National objectives incorporate all relevant World Summit for Children goals. The proposed Belize country programme objectives include initiatives to sustain progress already made towards the achievement of those goals in light of structural adjustment measures and support for compliance with the Convention. There are three key areas where achievement of the goals is threatened: child nutrition; universal primary education; and child protection. Seven integrated and balanced strategies will be applied across the programme: advocacy and social mobilization; monitoring, research and data dissemination; capacity-building; community empowerment; gender sensitivity; child participation; and inter-ministerial management and monitoring. The programme will promote a holistic strategy for children and families. Priority areas will include nutrition, child health, women's health and AIDS prevention. In education, the pivotal concern will be to improve primary school completion rates, with strategies related to capacity development, early childhood education and special learning needs. Child rights strategies will be related to policy, advocacy, legal reform and institutional development.

* E/ICEF/1996/2.

** An addendum to the present report containing the final country programme recommendation will be submitted to the Executive Board for approval at its third regular session of 1996.

THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN

1. Since independence in 1981, Belize, with a population of 200,000, has been a stable and economically growing country with good social indicators. However, current data reveal that this situation is changing and the social conditions of most Belizeans, particularly the poor and the children, are deteriorating. Reliance on protected markets for three primary products (providing 65 per cent of total export earnings) leaves the economy vulnerable to trade liberalization. In 1994, the British Forces, whose in-country expenditures contributed between 4 Structural adjustment measures are under way, and reductions in the national budget for the social sector have come at the time when there is greater pressure for services.

2. Preliminary findings of a 1995 study of the Caribbean Development Bank indicate that more than 23 per cent of Belizean households now live in poverty. The past decade's influx of Central American refugees and immigrants, estimated at 20 per cent of the population, has adversely affected all basic indicators, substantially increasing demands on the social sector as these groups are assimilated into the general population. International support for the displaced has been reduced, but their economic and social impact will continue to create a burden on the country. Under those circumstances, special efforts will be required to sustain achievements to date and prevent a slowdown in the attainment of the World Summit for Children goals. A Social Investment Fund (SIF), set to begin operations in 1996, and a proposed Village Council Act provide opportunities for reaching the most vulnerable and for incorporating children's issues into local-level decision-making and development.

3. Belize already has achieved most of the mid-decade health goals and is likely to achieve all of the end-decade health goals. However, special efforts will be required for the achievement of the nutrition, education and sanitation goals by the year 2000. Improved data information systems will be necessary for closer monitoring of progress of all goals as well as for informed decision-making during this period of economic adjustment. Immunization coverage for major childhood diseases was about 90 per cent in 1994; polio has been eradicated and efforts are under way to eradicate measles. Infant mortality is now officially reported at 34 per 1,000 live births (1993), with rates in the south at about 63. Perinatal conditions, acute respiratory infections (ARI) and diarrhoeal diseases are the major causes of infant and child mortality. The fertility rate, at 4.6, is one of the highest in the region, and adolescent pregnancy rates are high at one in five births. The maternal mortality rate is estimated at 160 per 100,000 live births. Only 24 per cent of mothers breast-feed exclusively for the first three months. Almost 75 per cent of the rural population do not have adequate sanitation. Belize faces the second highest per capita incidence of HIV/AIDS in Central America. Reliable data on child nutrition are scarce. Two studies suggest a range of severe malnutrition from about 1.3 to 2.4 per cent and moderate malnutrition between 5 - 17 per cent. Some degree of malnutrition appears to affect between 26 - 57 per cent of young children. There are indications that the most severe nutrition problems are in the Toledo district.

4. World Summit for children goals for universal primary enrolment and 80 per cent retention are threatened by a downward trend in enrolment of five year olds from 94 per cent in 1991/1992 to 89 per cent in 1994/1995, and only 40 of over 10 per cent for each class further illustrate difficulties which can be attributed to language barriers, parental attitudes, malnutrition, inadequate number of classrooms, child labour, poor teaching practices, poor early childhood development practices, poverty and childhood disabilities. Only

35 per cent of children aged three to five years are enrolled in pre-school. Less than 10 per cent of children with special needs are reached with services.

5. Belize was one of the first nations to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the National Committee for Families and Children is charged with overseeing compliance. The Committee has adopted the goal of reforming all legislation related to children, including children who have legal problems due to apparent increases in the disintegration of family structures, substance abuse, crime and violence among urban youth gangs.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM PAST COOPERATION

6. UNICEF-supported projects through national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have been difficult to sustain and have had a minimal impact on national policy. Therefore, government ministries will be the major partners in the new programme. The issue of sustainability will be of paramount importance in the design and implementation of NGO partnerships. Cooperation is most successful when it links institutional development with policy changes and governmental resource allocations.

7. Having five programmes, each with several projects, led to a dispersion of activities, proved to be too staff-intensive and lessened the impact of the limited resources available. A complementarity of UNICEF inputs with other United Nations agencies and donors increased the impact and maximized the use of resources in some programmes. This approach will be expanded to include the development banks. Past support for local-level development has strengthened the role of UNICEF as a partner with the Government, communities and the United Nations Development Programme in incorporating a child-centred approach to the formulation of local development plans. Local-level development will be promoted within the framework of the proposed Village Council Act and SIF. The focus of the programme for children in especially difficult circumstances proved to be too narrow, therefore it was broadened to encompass child rights. Belize is politically, economically and culturally affiliated with both the Caribbean and Central America. Hence, the design of policies and programmes should be responsive to social sector initiatives of both regions.

PROPOSED COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY

8. The Government of Belize is fully committed to the achievement of the World Summit for Children goals, which have been incorporated in the new national development plan. The country also is committed to implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and has identified the need to revise child-related legislation for consistency with the Convention.

9. Strategies for sustaining and achieving the World Summit goals have been incorporated in the sectoral plans of relevant ministries; however, the plans could be affected by structural adjustment reductions. The planning and monitoring of social sector goals are constrained by the lack of baseline data - a problem UNICEF is currently addressing.

10. The country programme objectives are (a) to monitor advances towards the decade goals and support initiatives to sustain progress in light of deteriorating economic conditions and structural adjustment; (b) to support initiatives towards reducing childhood malnutrition, achieving universal primary education and improving child protection, for which there are currently inadequate policies, capacity and resource allocations to achieve the goals by the year 2000; and (c) to support the Government and civil society in monitoring compliance with the Convention towards progressively achieving full compliance.

11. Several strategies will be applied across the country programme. Advocacy and social mobilization will be key to increasing awareness of all sectors of society on goals for children and their rights, building a stronger base of support and making leaders conscious of the effects of economic adjustment on children. Monitoring, research and information dissemination to support advocacy and social mobilization at national and local levels will contribute to an increase in community demand for adequate services and improve policies. Capacity-building will focus on areas where greater attention and/or resources are needed to overcome significant impediments to the achievement of global goals and compliance with the Convention. Another strategy covers initiatives that empower communities towards a child-centred approach to development and decision-making. These include the application of the gender equality and women's empowerment framework and the promotion of methodologies for genuine children's participation in all country programmes. Stronger inter-ministerial management and monitoring will facilitate coordination and collaboration on child-related issues.

12. The programme will have three interlinked components: health and nutrition; education; and child rights. Under the health and nutrition component, four areas of intervention are planned: nutrition; child health; women's health; and AIDS prevention. In nutrition, the objectives will be the reduction of child malnutrition, comprehensive growth monitoring, improved rates of exclusive breast-feeding and the reduction of anaemia among pregnant women. Major strategies will include nutrition surveillance, advocacy, resource development and institutional capacity-building. Technical assistance will help to ensure that food security and income maintenance for the poorest are incorporated into adjustment policies and addressed through SIF. In child health, the strategy will continue to sustain immunization levels, to improve ARI management and to control diarrhoeal disease through the use of oral rehydration therapy and environmental sanitation and education. The Ministries of Education and Health will be assisted in establishing a school health programme. Maternal mortality will be addressed through an initiative with the National Women's Commission, the Ministry of Health and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). Key follow-up actions to the International Conference on Population and Development will be supported through the Belize Family Life Association, with a focus on reducing adolescent pregnancies. In partnership with PAHO, the National AIDS Programme and the Ministry of Human Resources, UNICEF support will focus on education, multisectoral collaboration and issues of child rights.

13. Increasing the proportion of children who complete primary education will be the major priority of the education component. The reasons hindering completion of primary education are being analysed to refine current strategies. UNICEF will help to strengthen government and community capacity to mobilize resources and formulate interventions to improve the proportion of children completing primary education. In locations most affected by structural adjustment and diminishing resources, strengthening local capacities and parental involvement will be linked to collaboration with SIF. A cost-effective strategy for sustaining early childhood education coverage will focus on the families of the 65 per cent of children without access to pre-school education. For children with special learning needs, the practice of bringing children into the educational mainstream will be expanded through in-service teacher training and parent participation.

14. A three-pronged strategy will be used to help promote child rights: policy and advocacy; legal reform; and institutional reform and development. With the National Committee for Families and Children, advocacy will focus on the adoption of policies and the increase of resources, including those of SIF, to protect the most vulnerable children from the adjustment process and to improve

their situation in the longer term. The Committee's capacity for effective monitoring of compliance with the Convention and achievement of the World Summit goals will be reinforced. There will be parallel efforts to incorporate children's issues into local-level and village activities. A child work initiative will aim to eradicate all labour of children under 12 years of age and link the labour of 12- to 14-year-olds with apprenticeship and education. UNICEF will support the formulation of a Children's Act. Legislation reform will be followed by training and strengthening institutional capacity to ensure compliance. Law enforcement capacities will be strengthened, particularly through the District Family Court. Capacities of the Family Services Division will be strengthened in the areas of prevention, family life education and transition from an institutional-based model of interventions to one of family-based rehabilitation, fostering or adoption.

15. The Belize country programme will support and complement subregional initiatives in Central America and the Caribbean. The subregional component will enable the country programme to use organizational links, agreements and resources of both the Central America and Caribbean regions to strengthen national efforts to improve the situation of women and children.

ESTIMATED PROGRAMME BUDGET

Estimated programme cooperation, 1997-2001 a/
(In thousands of United States dollars)

	General resources	Supplementary funds	Total
Health/nutrition	1 250	1 000	2 250
Education	1 000	750	1 750
Child protection	1 500	750	2 250
Total	3 750	2 500	6 250

a/ These are indicative figures only which are subject to change once aggregate financial data are finalized.

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FOR ACTION

COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY NOTE**

Chile

SUMMARY

The Executive Director presents the country programme strategy note for Chile for a programme of cooperation for the period 1997 to 2001.

The process of democratic renewal in Chile has generated a favourable climate for the defense of human rights, and the Government ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990. The country has achieved most of the goals for the decade related to child survival and development, although there are significant regional disparities. Poverty still affects 2 million children - 40 per cent of the child population - who suffer different forms of inequality and discrimination in health, education and protection. Past UNICEF cooperation was planned in a period of political uncertainty, with financial restrictions in the social sector. This led to a fragmented programme with a great number of activities without a strong framework. To enhance the impact of UNICEF cooperation, priorities, therefore, should reflect relevant, important issues related to child rights, focusing interventions for the most vulnerable groups.

The national goals which relate most closely to child well-being are the consolidation of democracy and the eradication of poverty to ensure social and geographic equity. The country programme aims to inform and sensitize Chilean society about the rights of children and to promote the coordination of actions to reduce significant social disparities. The strategies will include advocacy about the situation of children and increased information and knowledge on child rights for families, government institutions and civil society, as well as capacity-building of state institutions.

* E/ICEF/1996/2.

** An addendum to the present report containing the final country programme recommendation will be submitted to the Executive Board for approval at its third regular session of 1996.

THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN

1. During the period 1990 to 1995, democracy was re-established and economic growth combined with social justice and political stability became primary political objectives in Chile. However, the country's spectacular economic growth, which has averaged 7 per cent, has not benefited all equally. Income disparities are widening, with 10 per cent of the population receiving 45 per cent of the gross domestic product. Poverty continues to be a serious problem, especially for rural, indigenous groups, and 30 per cent of the population of 13 million still live under the poverty line. Some 5 million people are under 18 years of age, of whom 2 million, or 40 per cent, live in poverty. Poor children suffer different forms of inequality and discrimination, the most important being poor quality health and education services. This results in low performance rates and high repetition rates in public and state-subsidized schools.

2. The return to democracy has generated a favourable climate for the defense of human rights. The Government of Chile ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990, submitting its first report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 1992. The Committee observed that poverty still affects a large number of children and constrains implementation of the provisions of the Convention. The process for adapting national legislation to comply with the Convention is still at an initial stage. Current legislation discriminates against poor children and adolescents by confining them to institutions under provisions for special protection of abandoned and battered children, or as juvenile delinquents.

3. Chile has made a breakthrough in child survival and, in fact, has already achieved all of the goals set by the World Summit for Children except those for universal access to clean water and sanitation and the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative, both of which are expected to be achieved by the year 2000. However, wide regional disparities remain.

4. As a result of this progress, problems concerning children's rights with respect to protection have become more visible. The national plan of action (NPA) includes goals on child battering, sexual abuse, adolescent pregnancies, drug and alcohol abuse and the degradation of the environment. Achieving those goals by the year 2000 will require special efforts because some problems have not been adequately assessed and, in general, issues of child participation have not yet been addressed by the country. Children and adolescents lack opportunities to participate within the family, schools and in society at large.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM PAST COOPERATION

5. The last country programme was planned in a period of transition to democracy marked by financial constraints with respect to social services. Limited opportunities for programme cooperation led to a number of small sectoral activities without a common framework. Future UNICEF cooperation should address important issues related to child rights, focusing on capacity-building and the empowerment of children, families and communities, primarily in the most vulnerable geographic areas.

6. The competence of UNICEF is recognized with regard to children in especially difficult circumstances, early childhood development and preschool and basic education. Continuing innovative applied research on these topics, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), universities, private and public institutions, should be a priority for UNICEF.

7. The NPA and corresponding regional plans of action for children still present a sectoral and fragmented view of the situation of children and adolescents, based on a concept of needs rather than rights. Hence, an in-depth revision of the NPA should transform it into a rights-based advocacy instrument. The process of introducing the NPA at the municipal level offers a great opportunity to coordinate sectoral efforts at local levels and renew commitments for children's rights, including financial ones, using a more holistic approach.

8. The lack of a coherent communication strategy resulted in activities with a weak relationship to the programme activities, which has been a draw-back to increasing private sector fund-raising. A more viable long-term strategy should be designed to effectively reach and sensitize the public about children's rights.

PROPOSED COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY

9. The national goals which relate most closely to children's well-being are the consolidation of democracy, the eradication of poverty to ensure social and geographic equity, increased coverage and quality in education for all children, and decentralization to promote effective family and community participation. Those goals, together with the analysis of the situation of children, adolescents and women and the lessons learned from past cooperation, provide the basis for a country programme aimed at informing and sensitizing Chilean society about the rights of children and adolescents, and at coordinating actions to reduce geographical and social disparities.

10. Based on Chile's national goals, the objectives of the country programme are (a) to create awareness about the situation of children and adolescents in Chile and increase knowledge of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; (b) to support the country in harmonizing relevant national legislation with the Convention on the Rights of the Child; (c) to assist in the revision and monitoring of the NPA and in the development of local plans of action; (d) to support improvements in the quality of basic education, especially for vulnerable social and geographical groups; and (e) to promote gender equality.

11. The strategies to be used are advocacy about the situation of children and adolescents and on the contents of the Convention which address children, adolescents, families, government institutions and civic organizations. The participation of children and adolescents will be encouraged, especially in the family and the school system, as will their expression of opinions on subjects of importance to them. Capacity-building, through technical assistance and training, will assist central and local government and state institutions responsible for implementing the NPA and those involved in harmonizing national legislation with the provisions of the Convention. The empowerment of parents and communities will be promoted through training in early childhood development and positive parenting behaviour. A gender perspective will be included in the country programme, which will pursue special activities for the empowerment of girls. Monitoring and evaluation of the country programme will focus on gender indicators.

12. Because a large number of children in Chile are victims of discrimination, the first programme component will help to overcome poverty, contribute to the reduction of discrimination and promote the coordination of efforts to implement children's rights, with special emphasis on actions to reduce inequalities affecting children. UNICEF will support the process of adapting all relevant legislation to the Convention and the subsequent application of the resulting

laws. This support will include technical assistance and training for the Ministry of Justice, parliamentarians and judges. The programme will aim to raise public awareness of the need for and importance of legislative reform. UNICEF will work closely with the National Service for Children (Servicio Nacional de Menores (SENAME)) in designing a programme to de-institutionalize children and to provide alternative forms of care for children requiring special protection. This process will include a revision of all SENAME internal norms and mechanisms in the light of the principles and provisions of the Convention.

13. UNICEF will provide technical assistance for revision of the NPA, in addition to training on the contents of the Convention to all state institutions responsible for its implementation. A second endeavour will include the development of municipal plans of action, focusing on the most vulnerable geographic and ethnic groups of children. The programme will promote the participation of local institutions, community-based organizations and NGOs to coordinate actions and generate results. In this process, children's demands will be considered. Important partners in this effort will include mayors, especially the Chilean Network of Mayors as Defenders of Children, and the group of Parliamentarians for Children. To ensure commitment by all sectors of society, the development of local plans of action will be complemented by a sensitization campaign based on the rights of the child. Furthermore, funds will be mobilized from the private sector. The goals of the NPA and the World Summit for Children will be monitored.

14. The Government considers improvements in education to be the key element of poverty reduction and the reinforcement of democracy. Activities related to early childhood development will include parental education on early stimulation and positive parenting. For preschool education, there will be an emphasis on the empowerment of parents and teachers with new methodological approaches to integrated child development, promoting the rights of participation and expression of children. For basic education, the programme will promote past experiences of using innovative methodologies, elaborated in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and which complement programmes of the Ministry of Education, to improve quality, especially in the most vulnerable municipalities. Education for development and environmental education will be promoted. Special studies and activities will be carried out to identify and eliminate ethnic, socio-economic and gender inequalities within the formal school system. In all activities, there will be special emphasis on the potential of local networks and of the experiences of community organizations to empower these groups.

15. There will be systematic analysis of regional and local social statistics using conventional and non-conventional indicators, including a gender perspective, to increase knowledge of the situation of children and adolescents in the country. There will be special studies and research on such topics as child battering, sexual abuse, drug abuse, child labour, AIDS and other emerging issues. The opinions of children and adolescents on the problems affecting them will be of great importance. This work will be carried out in collaboration with government groups, NGOs, the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Population Fund, UNESCO and other United Nations agencies.

16. The second programme component, for advocacy, communication and social mobilization, will support achievement of the objectives of the first component. It will focus on disseminating the Convention on the Rights of the Child to children, adolescents and families as well as to the general public. Sensitizing the public about the situation of children and adolescents in Chile will be a mobilization tool to create awareness and build alliances for the

defense and promotion of children's rights. Special activities to promote children's and adolescents' participation will be carried out through the programme. Local funds will be sought to finance activities within the country programme. To date, there have been successful experiences in mobilizing funds from the private sector to finance activities to improve the quality of education.

ESTIMATED PROGRAMME BUDGET

Estimated programme cooperation, 1997-2001 a/
(In thousands of United States dollars)

	General resources	Supplementary funds	Total
Overcoming poverty	3 300	550	3 850
Advocacy, communication and social mobilization	1 700	200	1 900
Total	5 000	750	5 750

a/ These are indicative figures only which are subject to change once aggregate financial data are finalized.